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'Invisible' Street Signs Confuse Motorists Who Are Strangers to City

For a stranger at least, trying to find your way around Torrance can become a king-size headache. Lack of street signs, or more frequently their placement, can make a motorist shudder with frustration. Some of the signs lurk hidden behind trees or oversized shrubbery, almost completely concealed. In other areas, even the large, modern metal signs, sit back about 75 feet from a main highway such as Hawthorne Blvd., requiring either eagle-eyed concentration, or driving up an access road.

One Sign

Because of their high cost, and city officials admit they cost more than the fee charged to subdividers, usually only one sign is posted at each of the city's 14,000 intersections. "Trouble is you never know on which side of the street you find the sign," grumbled one woman driver who just moved to Torrance.

Only tiny, old-fashioned signs mark such major intersections as Hawthorne and Torrance Bvds., Crenshaw and Sepulveda Bvds.

At Hawthorne Blvd. and 190th St., a heavily traveled crossing, the State has posted large signs north and south of the underpass on Hawthorne Blvd.

But there are no street signs for the benefit of motorists traveling east on 190th St.

No Signs

Another major intersection, Hawthorne and Sepulveda Bvds., is also unmarked by any signs, except the State highway designation, which may not mean a thing to a passing driver.

In other cases, the solitary sign at one of the four corners of a residential street is often concealed by trees or shrubs.

Officials of the engineering department said that they usually wait for several months before they order a batch of signs, since they can get cheaper prices with large orders.

City Takes Loss

But even with quantity orders, the signs and their installation cost considerably more than the price charged to subdividers.

Three years ago, when a breakdown of the cost was last made, the city lost nine cents on each sign for which the tract developer is charged \$25.

But since that time prices have gone up, and one official estimates that it now costs at least \$30 to install a sign.

He said that the reason some intersections do not have signs, is because they might have been knocked down in an auto accident, and sometimes vandals bend them.

Far Away

Although most of the new signs have large black letters on a white field and are quite visible, they often are placed a considerable distance from the roadway, making it almost impossible to read them at that distance.

In some sections, the old county signs, which are narrow strips, are still in use and have not been replaced.

"The signs may be all right if you know your way around, but for a stranger, it's like a rat running through a maze," said one motorist.



UNMARKED—Major intersection, Hawthorne Blvd. and 190th St., is not marked for east bound traffic on 190th St. Several other major intersections have no signs at all or are poorly marked.



GOOD SIGN—Sign like this at Arlington, and Post Aves., is easily visible, although only one sign is usually placed at each intersection to save costs.

STEAL PTA CASH

A stack of PTA envelopes, containing an undetermined amount of cash were stolen from Room 311 at North High School, police reported Tuesday. The theft was discovered by R. E. Collins, a teacher.

Human Brains Good Enough for Schools

Torrance school officials definitely are not in the market for electronic brains.

With capable human brains, they don't have any need for the complicated marvels of modern science.

Reason for this is their almost perfect estimate of the Torrance Unified School District enrollment as of Oct. 1.

Last summer, the department of special services, headed by Dr. Warren Hamilton, guessed the student population on that date as 23,300.

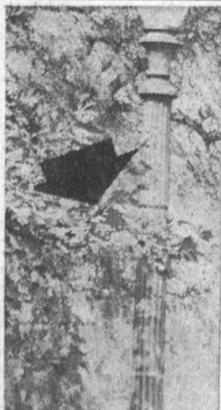
When Oct. 1 rolled around, the statisticians found themselves off by an error of 0.0004.

They had misjudged by one student, since only 23,229 students had enrolled.

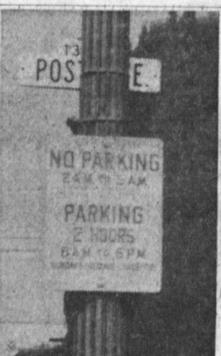
The almost perfect estimate was made in view of a rapidly growing population, reflecting in a student increase of 2150.

School officials explained that the summer estimate was needed to set school boundary lines, hire teachers and order supplies.

Former Boxer Jailed on Safe Burglary Charges



GUESS WHERE — This street remains a mystery as street behind trees. There are several hidden street signs in city. This photo was taken at Arlington Ave. and 220th St.



HIDDEN—Sign at Post Ave. and Cravens lurks out from behind light standard, posing problem to passing motorist.

Teachers Get 3% Pay Boosts

Teachers and other employees of the Torrance Unified School District will get a three per cent salary increase, effective Nov. 1, the Torrance School Board decided Tuesday night.

No increase in salaries was given last year, because of uncertainty about the budget totals. However, a large assessed valuation increase provided more money than originally expected. The increase will bring the salaries of Torrance employees into line with what neighboring districts are paying, officials said.

The new teachers' salary raises the minimum salary for teachers with regular credentials from \$4500 to \$4635 and the maximum from \$7800 to \$8031. Other school employees will get a flat three per cent raise.

Fighters Of Postal Plan Hit

A blast at "selfish" Redondo Beach businessmen who oppose transferring Hollywood Riviera into the Torrance post office district, was raised at the City Council meeting Tuesday.

Councilman Robert Jahn, himself a resident of the area, also denounced the attitude of some people that Redondo Beach has a "classier" name than Torrance.

He said a committee of businessmen is opposing the annexation of Hollywood Riviera into the Torrance mailing address for selfish reasons, and is stirring up opposition to a plan to have the Torrance Post Office serve all parts of the city.

Mayor Albert Isen, who first advocated the mail change, accused the businessmen's committee of "spreading scurrilous propaganda."

He said that Riviera residents are receiving their police and fire protection from Torrance and send their children to Torrance schools.

"If anybody tells me Redondo Beach is stylish, let them call it Hollywood Riviera," Torrance by the Sea," the mayor declared.

He predicted that Torrance would win overwhelmingly if a preference poll is conducted among residents.

Spare Room Now Is Occupied

That extra room is making money for Mrs. John Mitchell, of 3409 W. 175th St.

She placed a classified ad in the Torrance Press, announcing she had a room with private entrance for rent, and promptly found a tenant.

If you have something to sell, buy or rent, call a Torrance Press advertiser at FA 8-2345, and let her help you with your advertising copy.

Quadriplegic War Vet Injured Badly When His Car Crashes out of Control

A quadriplegic war veteran, whose specially built station wagon spun out of control Sunday morning, is still on the critical list at Harbor General Hospital.

Ace C. Craft, 46, of Santa Ana, was injured when his auto roared out of control on Lomita Blvd. between Crenshaw and Hawthorne Bvds., smashed into a railroad warning signal post and wound up against a refinery fence, police report. His wife, a passenger in the car, was treated at Harbor General Hospital for minor injuries and was then released.

Mrs. Craft said that her husband was passing another station wagon, when his car left the roadway, returned to the pavement, hit the post and finally came to rest against the fence.

Craft, who does not have full use of his legs and arms, was driving a specially-equipped vehicle, police said.

He suffered a concussion, scalp cuts, and a broken leg.

Three persons were injured in a three-car collision at Pacific Coast Hwy. and Crenshaw Blvd. Saturday night.

Police listed the injured as Michael M. McMahon, 64, of 1620 Juniper St., his wife Mary Ann, 62, and Carl Salvador Morabito, 48, of San Pedro.

The third driver involved in the crash was Bert Richard Dillard, 32, of Los Angeles, officers said.

37 Students in Upper 10% in Scholarship Test

Thirty-seven North and Torrance High students ranked in the upper 10 per cent of students taking the National Merit Scholarship exams last week, according to a compilation of results. Some 490,000 students took the exams throughout the country.

North High, with six students in the upper one per cent, had the largest number of all high schools in this area. James Wilson, Carl Thornton, Julie Henderson, Clarence Fuzak, Jack Buehler, and Kathryn Schade placed in the select group, which will be in contention for top national scholarships.

Twenty-one Torrance students placed in the upper five per cent.



TRAFFIC CASUALTY—Mrs. Ace C. Craft, wife of a quadriplegic veteran whose car spun out of control, is being placed on wheel chair by ambulance attendants. Mrs. Craft escaped with minor injuries, but her husband is in critical condition.

GAS LINE RUPTURED

A gas line was ruptured Monday morning while workmen were installing a service on Danaha St. between Wintlock Dr. and Tandem Rd. No injuries were reported.

Man Accused of Forging Credit Check

A former custodian will face preliminary hearing on forgery and grand theft charges Tuesday in Torrance Municipal Court.

Robert Lewis Chipman, 38, of 3511 W. 190th St., is accused of adding two zeros to a Torrance Unified School District credit union check and cashing it for \$300 instead of \$3, police said.

Officers said that a clerical mistake had been made with a check protector, which stamped the check \$300. The defendant is accused of altering the handwritten figure and cashing it. Chipman is held under \$2000 bail.

Grand Opening Ceremonies Today for Shoppers Market

Thousands of shoppers are expected to take advantage of the huge new Shoppers Market which opens today at Carson and Main Sts. Congressman Cecil R. King will cut the ribbon with the ceremonial shears during the grand opening rites at 9 a.m.

Following the formal opening program of the \$1,000,000 market, Don Weston, popular master of ceremonies, will open a program of contests, games and fun for young and old.

The new market, largest in the area, covers more than 32,000 square feet and is the seventh in a chain of volume markets in the Greater Los Angeles area.

Shopping Convenience
In addition to the complete departmental features for self-service shopping convenience, the market features a "Choice" meat department, snack bar, Van de Kamp bakery, snack bar, complete liquor department and other new features.

Twelve check stands will assure speedy service, and care has been taken to make the aisles sufficiently wide to assist shoppers.

An enormous parking lot has been provided for the convenience of customers.

Opening Guests
Other guests at the grand opening will be Ben Scott, secretary-treasurer of Retail Clerks Union, Local 905; Hal Woodward, secretary-treasurer of Amalgamated Meat Cutters Union 531, Charles J. Futterman, president of Shoppers Markets, Joseph Gach, executive vice president of the chain, and David Shore, vice president and general manager.

Days of fun-filled entertainment, prizes and special bargains are offered to let patrons share in the grand opening celebration.



OPENS TODAY—This huge new \$1,000,000 Shoppers Market opens today at Carson and Main Sts., with the ribbon to be cut at 9 a.m. by Congressman Cecil R. King. Store will contain 32,000 square feet with all merchandise departmentalized for easy, self-service convenience. Entertainment, prizes and special bargains are offered for grand opening.

Huge Shoppers Market Opens Today

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